

Serial No.: 09/933,615

Attorney Docket No.: 2001P15259US

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, and 17 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. Claims 11, 15, 16, and 17 have been amended to overcome the claim objections.

Claims 11 and 15-17 were objected to because of various informalities. The claims have been amended in accordance with the suggestions of the Official Action. Thus, the objections are obviated.

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ma et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,795,867 ("Ma"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Ma.

As discussed in the Specification, some embodiments of the present invention include a plurality of Internet Protocol voice networks, such as telephony over LAN (ToL) networks, including primary gatekeepers. A Service Provider may maintain a backup gatekeeper for each of the ToL networks. Access to the backup gatekeeper may be a subscription service provided by the service provider. The backup gatekeeper maintains a database associated with all the ToL networks it provides backup service to. A proxy server or router receives all gatekeeper requests and first tries to forward the request to the primary gatekeeper. If the appropriate gatekeeper fails to respond, the proxy server or router forwards the request to the backup gatekeeper, which, if the user is a subscriber, handles the call. In some embodiments, a single backup gatekeeper can provide backup services to multiple local gatekeepers.

Thus, the claims have been amended to recite "wherein said backup gatekeeper is configured to provide backup gatekeeper services to a plurality of [local] gatekeepers."

In contrast, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Ma relates to a Load Management Unit (LMU) which is typically provided on each gatekeeper in a network or

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on each gatekeeper in a variety of networks. Ma does not, however, provide for a single backup gatekeeper providing services, e.g., by subscription, for a plurality of local gatekeepers. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Ma in view of Dorenbosch, U.S. Patent No. 6,907,237 ("Dorenbosch"). Applicant respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Ma or Dorenbosch, either singly or in combination.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 have been amended to recite "wherein said backup gatekeeper is configured to provide backup gatekeeper services to a plurality of [local] gatekeepers;" claim 6 has been amended to recite "wherein said control unit is configured to select said plurality of local gatekeeper modules such that the telecommunications gatekeeper provides backup services to a plurality of local gatekeepers."

Ma has been discussed above. Dorenbosch merely relates to providing a wireless backup for cellular telephone usage. Like Ma, Dorenbosch, however, does not provide a backup gatekeeper providing backup services to multiple gatekeepers, as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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